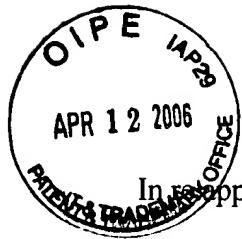


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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Claire MARTIN, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/513,169

Confirmation No.: 7864

Filed: February 25, 2000

Docket No: Q57933

Allowed: March 8, 2006

Group Art Unit: 2666

Examiner: Melanie JAGANNATHAN

For: METHOD TO PERFORM CENTRAL CONTROL, A LINE TERMINATOR AND AN ELEMENT CONTROLLER REALIZING SUCH A METHOD AND A TREE-LIKE NETWORK INCLUDING SUCH A LINE TERMINATOR AND AN ELEMENT CONTROLLER

COMMENTS ON EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

ATTN: MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant makes the following comments on the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The Examiner's statement should not be misinterpreted as meaning that the identified feature is the only patentable feature in any of the claims. The independent claims and the dependent claims also include various other aspects which provide a separate basis for patentability. The Examiner's statement emphasizes certain aspects of the claims, but each claim should be interpreted using its own precise language, without inferring any particular emphasis from the Examiner's statement. Applicant submits that the scope of the claims should be governed by the actual claim language, not by the Examiner's reasons for allowance.

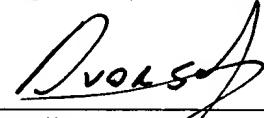
Patent Office personnel are requested to note that the present submission does not adversely affect the patent term adjustment accrued by Applicant to date. As emphasized in the

Comments on Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
U.S. Appln. No. 09/513,169
Attorney Docket No.: Q57933

"Clarification of 37 C.F.R. §1.704(c)(10) – Reduction of Patent Term Adjustment for Certain Types of Papers Filed After a Notice of Allowance Has Been Mailed," 1247OG111 (6/26/01), "a response to the examiner's reasons for allowance" is an example of a paper that does "not cause substantial interference and delay in the patent issue process" and is "not considered a 'failure to engage in reasonable efforts' to conclude processing or examination of the application."

Therefore, the Applicant remains entitled to the full patent term adjustment set forth on page 3 of the Notice of Allowance dated March 8, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: April 12, 2006